

TUESDAY, 20 MARCH, 2018

**APPOINTMENT OF MARKET AND BUS STATION BOARDS AND THE PROVISION
OF ALTERNATIVE TRADING LAND FOR STREET TRADERS**

The Minister of Local Government (Mr Mwale)

Mr Speaker, I wish to thank you for giving me this opportunity to make a statement on the Floor of this House and indeed through it I wish to update the nation on how the Government intends to run markets and bus stations. Further, I wish to report progress on what the Government has done on the provision of alternative land for traders that have been removed from streets in towns following the outbreak cholera.

Mr Speaker, it is important to state from the onset that the Government is committed to ensuring that it creates adequate trading spaces in designated areas for our people. Further, the Government has put in place measures to ensure that no one is allowed back on the street without facing the law through the provisions of the Statutory Instrument (SI) No. 12 of 2018, which amended the SI No. 10 with revised fees.

Sir, I wish to reiterates the Government's resolve to ensuring that councils take charge of running of markets and bus stations. To this effect, the Government has strengthened a law that deals with anybody who illegally collects levies from markets from market traders or licensed public transporters other than the council. This has been done through SI No. 12 of 2018.

Mr Speaker, in order to augment the enforcement of SI No. 12 of 2018, the Government has started appointing market and bus station boards to run markets and bus stations as opposed to councils directly running them, a strategy which has failed in the past, thereby, giving unscrupulous people room to start illegally collecting levies from marketeters for their own personal enrichment. To this effect, and as a pilot project, I have appointed market and bus station boards in Lusaka, Ndola, Kitwe, Livingstone, Chipata, Samfya, Mazabuka and Choma. In the long run, I will appoint more markets and bus station boards in other towns across the country.

Mr Speaker, the Government has put in place these measures and therefore, expects that the law will be followed to the later. To this effect, my ministry has authorised the recruitment of

TUESDAY, 20 MARCH, 2018

140 additional council police for the city of Lusaka. It is expected that these recruits will beef up security in markets and bus stations around the capital city, to ensure effective management of the facilities by boards.

Mr Speaker, allow me to turn to the issue of provision of adequate spaces for vendors that were removed from the streets. Inadequate trading and unsuitable market places resulted in high levels of street vending. Vendors started trading in undesignated places without proper water and sanitation facilities. This became a threat to public health of the nation. This had to be stopped in order to bring sanity to our streets and most importantly, to control the spread of cholera which ravaged our communities. To this effect, my ministry issued Statutory Instrument No. 10 of 2018, of the Local Government Act, Cap 281.

Mr Speaker, for a long time, a number of markets in the country have not been upgraded to take into account or consideration the rising numbers of traders, thereby creating a huge backlog of works that require urgent attention against limited national resource allocation. In order to curb this, and as provided for in the Markets and Bus Stations Act of 2007, my ministry has established a National Markets and Bus Stations Development Fund which will assist to raise resources for the development of modern and sustainable market facilities. This was done through the issuance of Statutory Instrument No. 77 of 2017. In this regard, it is envisaged that these funds will in turn accelerate the provision of alternative trading spaces through the construction and upgrading of markets.

Mr Speaker, I wish to inform this House, and through it the nation, that the Government is implementing a number of stop-gap measures that will provide adequate and safe trading spaces for marketeers in Lusaka. The projects include:

- (i) construction of a double storey market at Simon Mwewa Lane. The cost of the project is estimated at K70 million;
- (ii) construction of four market shelters at BH or Soweto annex area behind New Soweto Market. This is basically used for sale of fresh farm produce and four shelters estimated at a cost of K8 million to be erected and are currently at 70 per cent completion;

TUESDAY, 20 MARCH, 2018

- (iii) designating a market space at Agro-fuel land next to Lumumba Bus Station;
and
- (iv) designating another vegetable market along Tokyo Highway in Kamwala.

These immediate steps that the Government embarked on in order to provide legal and secure trading spaces for street vendors that were removed from the streets of Lusaka.

Mr Speaker, long term measures will include construction of new satellite markets and upgrading the existing ones within constituencies in Lusaka in order to decongest the town centre.

Further, at national level, not less than fifty markets are planned to be constructed in various parts of the country. As you may be aware, there has been little interest from the private sector in infrastructure development for markets. With the fore-going, the Government is appealing to the private sector to consider going into Public Private Partnerships (PPP) with local authorities to develop markets and bus stations. To this effect and in order to address this gap, the Government intends to partner with Sinomine Limited, a private company that expressed interest in investing US\$205 million in the development of markets and bus stations across the country. The project will be implemented in two phases. Phase one, which is worth K50 million and shall be provided for in the Bus Stations and Market Fund once all agreements finalised. The Government will complete the legal requirements for this project within the next few weeks and hopes to commence implementation in two months time.

Mr Speaker, finally, the Government is committed to the provision of conducive trading environments for our people as part of the deliberate policy to reducing poverty at household level. We will, therefore, continue with programmes of constructing modern markets in both urban and rural areas, with adequate sanitary facilities which will go a long way in the prevention of water borne diseases such as cholera.

Mr Speaker, I thank you.